

# School Board Ducks Issue On Spring Grid Practice

Torrance school officials have sidestepped a proposal from the Culver City Board of education that pre-season football practice for high schoolers be dropped. Although it was presented at the last Torrance board meeting, no action was taken on the matter. Torrance and North High generally begin practice the first week in September, although school does not open until the second or third week of the month.

The letter from Culver City, signed by President William M. Alberts, stated: "In our district a feeling has developed that the interests of the students, teachers and parents might be better served by a football season in which practice begins with the commencement of instruction and in which competition ends with the Thanksgiving vacation. We also have doubts that the interests of students are well served by play-offs which extend the season beyond Thanksgiving."

"A number of considerations must be mentioned at the outset. In the interests of fair competition, changes must be made uniformly throughout the league, or not at all. District policies in these matters are the responsibilities of the several Boards of Education, not of local 'rooter' groups."

"It is our belief that the opening of football practice prior to the beginning of instruction violates the principles of availability of school facilities to all students on an equal basis. It is also our belief that this can easily lead to the development of cliques or factions as student athletes may be encouraged to view themselves as a special group apart from the student body."

"By beginning football practice prior to the opening of instruction, new students may face a disadvantage in competing for positions on the athletic teams. Furthermore, working students must leave their summer employment early if they are to compete on an equal basis with other aspirants for the teams. We would also point out that, on occasion, family vacations may be disrupted by the insistence of student athletes that they be home when football practice begins. Under present conditions the summer employment of members of the coaching staffs must be terminated at a date earlier than that made necessary by the beginning of instruction."

"We would also point out that no state aid is received by school districts for the days during which school facilities are being used prior to the beginning of instruction."

"The foregoing considerations may not be conclusive, but we think you will agree with us that they are of sufficient importance to merit some thought and attention by those of us who are responsible for the policies which presently prevail. We are looking forward to your reaction to the foregoing at a future date."

The matter has been discussed locally for several seasons, and on any given afternoon, strong backers can be found for either side of the argument.

Football enthusiasts point back to the "good old days," saying that Johnny and Joe played football in the spring, early fall and all through the school's grid season, and did a commendable job in school work, too.

Others will quickly point out that Mr. Alberts' worries that it "violates the principle of availability of school facilities to all students on an equal basis" does not solve the problem of drama students who use school facilities for hundreds

of extra hours each year . . . newspaper . . . and of a number of other activities which do not fall in the public spot-facilities for a student body light as football does.

# Marine Clerks Represent Local Bowling Alley

The Marine Clerks of San Pedro represented the Torrance Bowl-O-Drome Lanes last week end in the 915 Class of Champions in tournament play at the Victory Bowling Alley in Van Nuys.

Staging a good performance, the locals won eight out of 12

## VALLEY AREA

Death Valley, situated in eastern California, is 210 feet below sea level and it is about 150 miles in length and up to 35 miles in width.

games to take eighth place in a field of 20 entries.

Members of the Marine Clerks who took part in the competition were Doug Jackson, Jimmie Jackson, Spike Blum, Dale Epler and Frank Carter.

Other bowling highlights for the past week at the Bowl-O-Drome include E. Clayton's

## FINE WIRE

Tungsten wire can be drawn so fine that a pound would stretch 950 miles.

sparkling 691 to aid his team, Pin Busters, in National Supply's League.

In the Douglas Mixed "750" Scratch, Moore's Cafe continued to hold a slight edge over the Hot-N-Tots. B. Catlett of the Anchors had a fine day as he wound up with a score of 640.

## LIVES SAVED

The Coast Guard, it is now estimated, has saved more than 22,000 persons from death in the sea.

# Dragsters to Enter Race

Lions Associated Drag Strip near Long Beach has been chosen as site of the 1957 Regional championship meet to be conducted July 20 and 21 under sponsorship of the Automobile Timing Association of America.

Mickey Thompson, director, said officials of the big LADS plant at 223rd St. and Alameda Ave. will conduct the speed tests and over 350 drivers from "west of the Rockies" will compete before an estimated 10,000 fans.

Action will go from 3 p.m. and under the arc-lights on July 20, and all day July 21, with upward of 2500 single and match runs over the 440-yard sprint route.

**CAPITOL AREA**  
The national Capitol building in Washington has a length of 751 feet and a width of 350 feet, including the structure's major approaches.

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